

CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 3rd March, 2021.

Present: Mr. A. Parker (Chairman), Councillor L. Burnett (Vale of Glamorgan Council), Mrs. N. De Longhi (Natural Resources Wales), Councillor N. Humphrey (Penarth Town Council), Mr. S. Jones (Quay Marinas Ltd), Mr. C. Michael (RSPB), Mr. K. Rogers (Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales), and Mr. M. Thomas (Clerk / Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer).

Also present: Mr. A. Ernest (Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association), Mr. D. Hall (Cardiff Harbour Authority), Mr. A. Michael (Penarth Headland Link Charity) and Mr. A. Vye-Parminter (Cardiff Harbour Authority).

(a) Apology for Absence –

This was received from Mr. P. Stone (Canoe Wales)

(b) Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd December, 2020 -

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December, 2020 be approved as a correct record.

(c) Navigational Safety – Cardiff Harbour Authority –

Mr. Vye-Parminter representing Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) provided an update on navigational safety:

Navigation

- Dredging of Taffs Meade and Castle stop and its approaches commenced on 23rd February, following Schedule 3 approval granted by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Work on this was progressing well.
- The Cardiff Barrage Outer Harbour dredging was due to start in the coming weeks, with the exact date to be confirmed and dependent upon suitable weather conditions in order to allow the dredger to arrive.

AGREED – T H A T the report be noted.

(d) To receive a progress report from Cardiff Harbour Authority -

Mr. Hall representing Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) provided an update on recent events:

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General

Barrage

- **Sluice Maintenance**

Mr. Hall explained that Sluice 5 was currently out of service due to a failed roller. Work in order to replace the roller was nearing completion.

- **E bike Station**

The station for electric e-bikes at the Barrage Car Park was now fully operational, this being the third such bike station on the Barrage.

- **Fish Pass Maintenance**

Work had commenced as part of the annual maintenance campaign for the Fish Pass. Repairs and scheduled changes to the inlet gate gearboxes were complete. There were potential, further, works planned in order to access and look at the repair options for the failed gravity attraction pipe.

Environment

- 1000 trees had been planted on the Barrage recently in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy. This was part of the Welsh Government (WG) funded Tiny Forest Project.

Community Liaison

- The Bay Trail / National cycle route section within the Vale of Glamorgan. Mr. Hall outlined how CHA had recently undertaken a project to re-sign the Bay Trail with an improved and updated design, in order to rectify the wayfinding issues experienced by visitors to the Bay. He added that Vale of Glamorgan Council colleagues had provided approval for these signs on their land.

Subsequently, Penarth Marina residents' representatives had contacted CHA requesting the cycle route be changed due to increased visitor numbers and footfall during the COVID-19 lockdown. Mr. Hall explained that any such changes to the route in this area required Vale of Glamorgan Council approval. Should they agree to the route change then CHA could facilitate the accompanying change in signage.

CHA had also provided additional signage at the junction of Marconi Ave / Llwyn Passet / Penarth Portway in order for users on an anticlockwise route to follow the correct route.

Following the update, Mr. Ernest (Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association) stated that he had been approached by the Chairman of the Penarth Marina Residents Association expressing their concern that the current cycle trail or route was directly by resident housing and that cyclists were also not following the official

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routes and ending up in residential and private areas. Due to lockdown restrictions, the situation had been exacerbated by large numbers of cyclists and other visitors coming to the area in order to do their daily exercise. Possibly, some of these issues could be short term in that greater enforcement around lockdown restrictions would help to move visitors and cyclists away from such residential areas. He added that inevitably the Barrage and the Bay area would attract visitors in potentially large numbers.

Mr. A. Michael (Penarth Headland Link Charity) referred to the good work already being undertaken jointly with the Cardiff and Vale local authorities and South Wales Police in enforcing social distancing and other rules due to current restrictions, adding that generally people in public spaces were following the rules. He also mentioned the work being undertaken by Mr. Maidment at CHA on the headland link proposals and asked if a report could be brought about this to the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Burnett (a Cabinet Member from the Vale of Glamorgan Council) stated that managing the lockdown restrictions had been a challenge for both the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff Councils. She cited the example of attempts to police parking at tourist spots within the Vale, where cars had been turned away only for the police to leave and more cars turning up and parking after they had left. Due to this, the Vale had been working closely with the Police through Community Safety and the Joint Enforcement Team. Councillor Burnett caveated that there were limits to what could be done practically around the issue of cycle paths and public access near private residences, for example, people shopping within Penarth town centre regularly walked past private homes with little or no issues caused by this. It was important to say also that the cycle route on Marconi Avenue took cyclists away from roads with busy traffic such as Terra Nova Way. Councillor Burnett appreciated that there were issues around cyclists going the wrong way on these routes but this had been mitigated by signage being added. Any further decisions to be made on re-routing and/or inclusion of more signage would be taken by the relevant Officers within the Vale of Glamorgan Council in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team and Councillor Burnett (in her Cabinet role).

The Chairman explained that although the issue around signage and cycle route(s) did not fall strictly within the remit of the Committee, it was still important for the Committee to have sight of this and for it to be monitored by all relevant parties. Mr Ernest wished to add that it was important for there to be adequate communications between the residents of Penarth Marina and the relevant authorities involved.

Mr. C. Michael (RSPB) stated that it was good to see the planting of trees on the Barrage as part of the Tiny Forest Project. However, the trees had been planted near to the 'Swift Tower' (a tower for nesting birds) and he wished to clarify that as the trees matured these would not impact the flight paths of the nesting Swifts. Mr. Hall replied that this scenario had already been considered and would be addressed as the trees matured.

There being no further questions, it was subsequently

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AGREED – T H A T the report be noted.

(e) To receive an update report from Natural Resources Wales -

Mrs. De Longhi representing Natural Resources Wales (NRW) provided an update to the Committee focusing on the following areas:

Dissolved oxygen (DO) levels

- There had been no recent notifications from Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) regarding low DO levels within the Bay.

Pollution incidents and investigations

- As reported previously, intermittent pollution had been discharging into Cardiff Bay from an outfall located near the Watermark Building, Ferry Road. Although work on this matter had been delayed by COVID-19, analysis of the discharge found that it is leachate and the assumption has always been that it is coming from the former Ferry Road landfill. Cardiff Council have recently investigated the network of pipes around the former landfill and unfortunately it would appear that the drainage system was never installed correctly: the pipe leading to Ferry Road should have been sealed or cut off (and the discharge directed to the foul sewer), but it is in fact still connected. Cardiff Council were now investigating further and considering options to remedy this.
- Also reported previously, the investigation around Llandough Trading Estate (an ongoing issue of oil entering the River Ely through the drainage network) had been concluded with the report on this drafted and NRW were working with the landowner in order to clean out the drainage and share the plan of the drainage network with other bodies for further investigation.

Proposed Cardiff Bay dredging operations

- Storm Dennis caused large cobbles to fill the deepened areas of the River Taff adjacent to Bute Park and at Taff's Mead, where the water taxis stop, so CHA have recently sought permission from NRW to dredge the areas affected. The dredged material will be placed in a deep area of the Bay. The work is due to begin on 23rd February and will be completed by the end of March. The presence of migratory fish in this area of the River Taff was least likely in January to March inclusive, which was therefore the best time of year for such works.

Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station

- Mrs. De Longhi explained that currently NRW were awaiting EDF's marine licence application for the disposal of sediment at the Cardiff Grounds. This

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application was expected imminently and would include the results of the sediment testing against the sediment sample plan NRW approved on 15th September 2020, following a technical and public consultation. Once received, NRW would thoroughly assess the information within the application and provide further opportunities for people to view and scrutinise the application through a public consultation, before NRW made a final decision. Further information on this was on the NRW Permitting Service's dedicated Position Statement which was regularly updated. Mrs. De Longhi also outlined how EDF had applied to the Marine Management Organisation in England too in order to potentially dispose of the dredged material into the Portishead disposal site. It was believed this further application was being driven by EDF's construction timetable and at-sea weather windows and supported EDF's contingency planning.

Angling in Cardiff Bay

- On 5th February, an NRW officer had attended a meeting with CHA to discuss nuisance anglers in Cardiff Bay and the lower River Ely. CHA explained that some anglers were fishing in areas where it is not permitted and / or are disturbing nesting birds. Whilst NRW officers regularly attend the Bay, they could only enforce whether anglers had rod licences, not whether they are fishing in areas where it is not permitted, nor disturbance to nesting birds. These issues could only be enforced by CHA and the Police respectively. NRW had subsequently agreed with CHA that they would share the details on dates when NRW were undertaking angling patrols in order to undertake joint enforcement patrols with CHA and thereby cover all aspects of enforcement on those dates.
- NRW were also planning to carry out an "angling participation" event in the Bay over the summer (pending COVID-19 restrictions). Such events were aimed at encouraging people, especially children, to take up fishing. NRW organised the events and provided equipment and qualified coaches, but also worked in collaboration with the landowner(s) and / or local angling club. Mrs. De Longhi stated that NRW would be liaising with CHA as well as plans for this event started to become more concrete.

The Barrage Fish Pass

- Finally, Mrs. De Longhi informed the Committee that the Fish Pass was currently closed for annual maintenance, which was carried out by CHA with NRW's agreement. She added that this was the ideal time to undertake such work due to the run of migratory fish having finished and that the work was progressing well. The run usually starts again in April, by which time the Fish Pass would be back in operation.

There being no questions from the Committee, it was subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the report be noted.

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(f) Indoor Arena Procurement – Report to Cardiff Council Cabinet:
26th November, 2020 -

The report had been placed on the agenda for the Committee's information only.

AGREED – That the report be noted.

(g) Atlantic Wharf Masterplan – Report to Cardiff Council Cabinet:
17th December, 2020 -

The report had been placed on the agenda for the Committee's information only.

AGREED – That the report be noted.

With regard to the above reports from Cardiff Council, the Chairman wanted to thank Cardiff Councillor Russell Goodway (Cabinet Member for Investment and Development) for these reports.

(h) Any other business -

Mr. S. Jones (Quay Marinas Ltd) asked the CHA Officers in attendance when the Barrage would be open to boaters. A 'roadmap' for the reopening of marinas and so on had been drafted in England already, with areas in the Bristol Channel already being reopened. Mr. Vye-Parminter replied that there was no news as yet from Welsh Government (WG) on a similar roadmap and CHA were waiting on any updates on when WG would be removing the necessary restrictions.

(i) Date of Next Meeting -

The Clerk would contact all Members regarding the arrangements for the next meeting due to be held in June 2021.